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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
K A T H L E E N M . H A R D I N G , M . D . , D . P . H . , A . K . C .
and the
C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R ,
M E A T A N D F O O D S I N S P E C T O R ,
S H O P S A C T I N S P E C T O R ,
and
S A L V A G E O F F I C E R ,
J . S . F I S H E R , C . R . S . I . , M . A . P . H . I . ,
for the year
1958.




STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - Doctor Kathleen M. Harding,
M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector - Jack S. Fisher,
C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health
Inspector - Kenneth Whiteley,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
TOWMARKET.

September, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1958.

The state of health of the people of Stowmarket has been satisfactory during the year under consideration.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	1,696 acres.
Population (estimated mid-year					
Home Population, Registrar					
General's figures)	...	...	...	7,580.	
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	2,487.	(Corrected)
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£98,689.	
Estimated Sum represented by					
a penny rate	...	...	...	£380.	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No notifiable infectious disease reached epidemic proportions.

HOUSING.

The Slum Clearance programme has made very little progress during the past year. About eighteen old, sub-standard houses have been closed or demolished, but there are still about sixty others upon which action has still to be taken. If these "poor little old houses" continue to be used as dwellings, the health of the people living in them will, inevitably, suffer.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Standardised Birth Rate has again fallen, but not to such a marked degree as in the previous year. It is now 10.52. The rate for England and Wales, 16.4 has risen since the previous year.

There has been a slight rise in the Standardised Death Rate, from 9.46 in 1957 to 10.77 last year.

It is a cause for great satisfaction that there have been no deaths occurring in infants under One year, so that the Infantile Mortality Rate is "Nil" (England & Wales 22.5).

There were three stillbirths in 1958, and one in 1957. This has caused the Still Birth Rate to rise from 11.0 to 35.59.

There has been no significant change in the various causes of death.

BIRTHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	34	45	79
Legitimate	33	43	76
Illegitimate	1	2	3

BIRTH RATE:-

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	=	10.42.
Per 1,000 home population - England & Wales	=	16.4.
Comperability factor	=	1.01.
Standardised Birth Rate	=	10.52.

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH - RATE:-

Per 1,000 total live and still births	=	36.59.
-do- England and Wales	=	21.6.

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Under one year).

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:-

Per 1,000 live births	=	Nil.
-do- England and Wales	=	22.5.

DEATHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>ALL CAUSES</u>	41	39	80

DEATH RATE:-

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population = 10.55.
Per 1,000 home population - England & Wales = 11.7.
Comparability factor = 1.02.
Standardised Death Rate = 10.77.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1958.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1957.</u>
Syphilitic disease.	-.	-.	-.	1.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-.	-.	-.	3.
do. lung,				
do. bronchus	-.	-.	-.	3.
do. breast	-.	1.	1.	1.
do. uterus	-.	1.	1.	-.
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6.	4.	10.	7.
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1.	1.	2.	-.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4.	4.	8.	9.
Coronary disease, angina	11.	6.	17.	16.
Hypertension with heart disease.	2.	1.	3.	2.
Other heart disease.	8.	12.	20.	15.
Other circulatory disease.	2.	3.	5.	5.
Pneumonia.	2.	-.	2.	2.
Bronchitis.	2.	2.	4.	2.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2.	3.	5.	4.
All other accidents.	1.	1.	2.	1.
Totals:-	41.	39.	80.	71.
	=====			

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

	1956.	1957.	1958.	England & Wales 1958.
Inhabited Houses.	2499	2544	2487 (corrected)	-
Population (Registrar General's Figures).	7570	7580	7580	-
Live Births.	114	90	79	-
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	15.36	11.99	10.526	16.4
Deaths of Infants under One year.	4	3	Nil	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	35.1	33.3	Nil	22.5
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population.	9.3	9.46	10.765	11.7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled
from Notifications received

Diseases.	Ages							Total	Admit- ted to Hosp- ital.	Deaths.
	-1	1/ 2	3/ 4	5/ 9	10/ 14	15/ 24	25 +			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	7	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Measles	-	5	4	3	-	-	1	13	-	-
Dysentery- Salmonella Typhi- murium	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Totals:-								25	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of Primary Injections in 1958	=	78.
Number of Booster Injections in 1958	=	79.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

Number of Primary Vaccinations	=	59.
Number of revaccinations	=	9.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
(i) New Cases notified	1	1	-	-
Transferred from another District	-	-	1	-

(ii) Ages of new and transferred cases:-

Pulmonary (Lungs)

1 Male	-	43 years.
1 Female	-	22 years.

Non-Pulmonary.

1 Male	-	18 years.
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(iii) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered" during the year:-

3 Pulmonary	-	1 Male, aged 52 years.
		2 Females, aged 45 and 30 years.

1 Non-Pulmonary	-	1 Female, aged 16 years.
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(iv) Cases "crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts or by death" during the year:-

Nil.

(v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
12	8	20	5	9	14

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was necessary during the year.

FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new Sewage Works were completed, save for certain Site works which were awaiting better weather, and came into commission in December. Work on Combs Ford Pumping Station was proceeding.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 (revised)
is attached.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING

Medical Officer of Health.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
Stowmarket.

September, 1959.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1958, and in doing so take the opportunity once again of recording my sincere thanks to all Members of the Council, and to Doctor K. M. Harding, Medical Officer of Health, Mr. K. Whiteley, Additional Public Health Inspector, the Clerk of the Council, and all members of the Council's Staff, for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

Again there is nothing spectacular to report and, this, to some extent at any rate, can be regarded as the result of the quiet and persistent work carried out in past years. The routine work of inspections and re-inspections, dealing with complaints, interviews, etc., etc., while taking much time cannot be adequately reflected in a report, but it is an essential part of public health work and has been fully maintained. Little, other than matters necessitating Statutory action, has been brought to the notice of the Council.

Meat and Food Inspection has continued to receive first priority, and but for a week-end's sickness of one Inspector coinciding with the annual leave of the other, every animal slaughtered in the three slaughterhouses would have been inspected. As it was, an inspection rate of 99.27% was achieved. The number of animals killed - 28,050 - was 35.26% higher than the previous year, or 36.8% higher when expressed in "Cattle Units".

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, came into operation, and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, were approved by Parliament towards the end of December. This legislation is welcomed as a step forward to improve conditions in slaughterhouses and to improve the standards of preparing clean and wholesome meat for human consumption. It is a matter for regret that the Government did not see fit to alter the law which allows the removal from slaughterhouses at 7 a.m. of meat from animals which have been slaughtered after 7 p.m. the previous evening, and to prohibit the slaughtering of animals on Sundays. The result is that considerable encroachment continues to be made upon the leisure time of Public Health Inspectors in carrying out inspection of all animals slaughtered and ensuring so far as possible a safe and wholesome supply of meat to the public.

It is with disappointment and regret that I have to record no further progress with the Slum Clearance programme, and it is quite obvious that the proposal to deal with 90 unfit houses by August, 1960, will not be accomplished. In point of fact, only twelve houses have so far been demolished; two other vacated and awaiting demolition; one subject to a Demolition Order but still occupied; eleven, (including four flats or parts of buildings) made the subject of formal Closing Orders or Voluntary Undertakings to close; and two made fit for habitation. The delay in implementing the five-year programme is due primarily to the financial restrictions imposed on the Country in the previous year, but shortage of suitable building land will present something of a problem. Further details are given in the section of the report headed "Housing".

Following are details in summarised form of the work carried out.

1. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

(a)(i) MEAT.

	Cattle excluding Cows. .	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	3,906	2,095	303	4,598	17,148
Number inspected	3,867	2,076	303	4,562	17,035
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	3	7	8	29	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	630	512	4	140	1,755
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.	16.37	25.00	3.96	3.7	10.43
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	12	14	1	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	169	270	-	-	559
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.7	13.7	0.33	-	3.29
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	24	9	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	24	9	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	2	-	-	-
Percentage of the number of Cattle inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.58				

(a)(ii) Comparison with three previous years.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
(i) <u>Animals killed.</u>				
Cattle	2,012	2,938	4,747	6,001
Calves	431	255	320	303
Sheep and Lambs	4,405	4,115	4,296	4,598
Pigs	19,835	13,119	11,374	17,148
Totals:-	26,683	20,427	20,737	28,050
(ii) <u>Condemned.</u>	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Meat.	20,783	25,215 $\frac{1}{2}$	26,267 $\frac{1}{2}$	34,541
Offal.	13,248 $\frac{3}{4}$	17,649 $\frac{1}{2}$	29,763 $\frac{1}{2}$	39,589 $\frac{1}{2}$
From other Districts.	286	18	-	-
Imported Meat.	-	-	-	28
(iii) <u>Percentage of animals inspected affected with disease.</u>				
<u>All diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>				
Cattle excluding Cows	13.25	19.8	23.43	16.37
Cows	24.22	25.11	26.9	25.0
Calves	1.86	3.53	0.94	3.96
Sheep and Lambs	5.09	4.06	5.66	3.7
Pigs	3.53	4.56	6.45	10.43
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Cattle excluding Cows	6.03	5.49	4.3	4.7
Cows	15.1	9.33	8.26	13.7
Calves	0.23	0.39	-	0.33
Pigs	2.9	3.37	3.46	3.29
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Cattle including Cows.	1.0	0.61	0.72	0.58

The higher percentage of Cows affected with Tuberculosis was probably due to the fact that notice had been given that the area was to be declared a "Specified Area" under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, section 37, and re-actors to the Tuberculin Test were being eliminated from herds as a consequence.

(b) TINNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

	<u>tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Fish	15	13	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit	107	140	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meat	80	121	15
4 packets		1	0
Milk	11	9	2
Soups	5	4	15
Vegetables	110	100	15
Miscellaneous	2	1	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
<hr/>			
330 tins		393	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 packets.			
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(c) TOTAL WEIGHT OF ALL FOODS CONDEMNED.

33.282 tons (approximately)

(d) DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOODS.

Meat and offals - Stained with Naphaline Green dye, and sold to Suffolk Fat & Bone Company, Oulton Broad, and to B. Dunning, Great Finborough for processing.

Tinned and Other foods - Buried at Council's Refuse Tip.

(e) TRANSPORT OF MEAT.

Generally satisfactory.

(f) SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number licenced - 3.

These have been generally well-maintained, but all fall short, to some extent, of the requirements of the new legislation relating to Slaughterhouses.

Thirteen Slaughtermen's Licences were renewed.

2. FOOD.

(a) Food Premises.

Number of premises inspected	-	40.
Number of inspections made	-	162.
Number found to be unsatisfactory	-	17.
Number rendered satisfactory by informal action	-	15.

(b) Premises Registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1955
s. 16.

For Sale and Storage of Ice Cream	-	29.
For manufacture of Sausages, etc.	-	9.
Fried Fish Shops	-	5.

(c) Food Samples taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination.

Brawn	-	10.
Pressed Beef	-	1.
Liquid Egg	-	12.
Grain	-	10.

The Brawn and Pressed Beef samples were found to be generally satisfactory, but where colony counts were high, and including three cases in which coliform bacilli were present, opportunity was taken to discuss processes and methods with the producers.

The Liquid Egg samples were taken at an Egg Packing Station following a Salmonella outbreak in a neighbouring Town, and two showed the presence of Salmonella typhi-murium, Phage type 4, and one Phage type 2c and 4. In the other nine samples, Salmonella organisms were not isolated.

The Grain samples were taken following possible contamination resulting from a choked sewer. Seven were found to have been contaminated, and appropriate action was taken.

(d) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

Number of Dairies registered	-	3
Number of Milk Dealer's Licences issued.-		
(i) Pasteurised	-	2
(ii) Tuberculin Tested	-	3
(iii) Sterilised	-	1

(e) Market Food Stalls.

These were regularly inspected, and found reasonably satisfactory.

(f) Food and Drugs Act, 1955 s.2.

Extraneous matter was found in a loaf of bread, but after full investigation and report, the Council decided not to take formal action.

3. HOUSING.

(a) New Houses - (Statistical, and not actual work of the Department.

Council Flats completed during the year	-	20.
Houses completed by Private Enterprise	-	5.
Houses under construction by Private Enterprise	-	19.

(b) (i) Housing Act, 1957 - Slum Clearance Progress.

<u>Clearance Order.</u>	<u>Address.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
1956/1	1-11 Regent Street.	6.	Houses demolished
	61-63 Union Street.	2.	do.
1956/2	88-92 Union Street.	3.	do.
1956/3	3- 7 Union Street.	3.	No Further action.
1956/4	15/17 Needham Road.	2.	Order confirmed - Houses vacated.
1956/5	77/79 Bridge Street.	2.	No. 77 made fit and Order determined. No. 79 in process of repair.

Closing
Orders.

1/1/58	Flat over Shop, 6 Market Place.	1.	Closing Order made and Flat vacated.
26/3/58	Basement Flat, 18 Finborough Road.	1.	Closing Order made and Flat vacated.
12/12/58	73 Bury Street.	1.	Closing Order made, but house not yet vacated.
7/3/58	West Cottage of Pair, Combs Ford Square.	1.	Undertaking not to re-let accepted.
(12/6/57)	5 Marriotts Walk.	1.	House vacated and converted to business premises.

Demolished voluntarily.

63 Ipswich Street.	1.	Re-built as business premises.
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In addition to the above, the following action had been taken under the programme prior to 1958:-

Closing Orders, or Voluntary Undertakings accepted not to
re-let.

Nos. 3 and 5 Spring Row	-	2.	Vacated.
No. 17 Spring Row	-	1.	Not vacated.
Flats over Nos. 26 and 28 Ipswich Street	-	2.	Vacated.
East Cottage of Pair, Combs Ford Square.	-	1.	Vacated.

Demolition Order.

No. 87 Needham Road	-	1.	Not yet vacated.
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Houses made fit, or in course of being made fit, as result of Formal Action, and removed from Slum Clearance Programme.

No. 7 Church Walk.

Nos. 77 and 79 Bridge Street.

(b) (ii) Housing Act, 1957 s. 16.

Demolition action in respect of Nos. 3 and 5 Stricklands Road initiated.

(c) Houses in which defects were remedied.

After Informal Notices - 52

(d) Housing Act, 1949 (as amended) - Improvement Grants.

Enquiries dealt with during the year - 16.

Approved for Grant during the year - 4.

Amount of Grants approved during the year - £543.

Total number of Grants approved to 31/12/58 - 33 (3 not proceeded with)

Total amount of grants approved to 31/12/58 - £5253 18s. 9d.

(e) Moveable Dwellings.

New Licences granted - 6.

Licences renewed - 3.

Dwellings occupied at 31/12/58 - 8.

4. WATER SUPPLY.

Nine samples of water taken from services off the Town (Station Road) supply, six from services off the Poplar Hill supply, and one from a Private Well, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and all received satisfactory reports, eight of them being reported as "very satisfactory".

5. SWIMMING POOL.

Samples of water taken from the Swimming Pool and the Children's Paddling Pool were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and received satisfactory reports.

6. SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Number of Shops - 120.

Number of Inspections- 6.

Contraventions found and remedied - 1.

7. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Number of Factories on Register	-	63.
Other premises on Register	-	6.
Number of inspections	-	61.
Number of cases in which defects were found and remedied	-	9.

8. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1958.

Clearances to proposed Installations	-	2.
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9. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Number of Premises on Register	-	2.
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10. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licences issued	-	1.
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11. CONVENIENCES AT LICENCED AND PUBLIC PREMISES.

Found generally clean and well maintained.

12. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Cleaned daily, but subjected to much damage and disfigurement.

13. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases investigated:-

Scarlet Fever	-	7
Dysentery - Salmonella typhi murium	-	1
Faeces specimens collected and despatched to Public Health Laboratory	-	6

14. FUMIGATION.

One fumigation was carried out.

15. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Refuse Tips and Sewage Disposal Works were subjected to frequent treatments. One sewer treatment was carried out, and a number of manholes were treated periodically. No evidence of serious infestation was found.

Complaints received and dealt with - 57.

Number of treatments and "known kill";-

		<u>Known Kill</u>	
		<u>Treatments.</u>	<u>Rats. Mice.</u>
Local Authorities'			
premises	-	11.	196. -.
Business and			
Industrial premises	-	18.	138. 50.
Private Dwelling-			
houses	-	199.	584. 42.
Totals:-		228.	918. 92.
			=====

16. COMPLAINTS.

Complaints received and dealt with - 148.

17. NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices in connection with Slum Clearance served by the Clerk's Department.

Informal Notices - 89.

18. REFUSE COLLECTION.

Frequent breakdowns occurred early in the year with the old Refuse Collecting Vehicle, and collections of House Refuse became somewhat disorganised at times. Two new Karrier Bantom vehicles were purchased - one for regular refuse collection, and the other as a stand-by and for general work - and came into service in June, and the collection service has since been reasonably satisfactory, weekly collections being made throughout the District.

The position in regard to the provision of Refuse Bins by the Council under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, was as follows at 31st December, 1958:-

Bins supplied or renewed during the year	-	42.
Total number of bins issued since December, 1950	-	416.
Total number of bins written off, worn out	-	53.
Returned to Stock for re-use	-	5.
Total number in service at 31st December, 1958	-	368.

The majority of the bins written off as worn out were those of an inferior type of ungalvanized bin which were the only ones obtainable at the time.

Approximately half the bins in service have already more than paid for themselves.

19. TRADE REFUSE.

Trade Refuse was collected from 104 Business premises.

20. SALVAGE.

		<u>tons.</u>	<u>cwts.</u>
Waste paper, all grades, in Stock 1/1/58.		5.	0.
do. collected 1958.		114.	7.
do. sold.		116.	10.
do. in Stock 31/12/58.		2.	17.
Proceeds of sales, 1958	=	£929	6s. 2d.
Value of Stock, 31/12/58.	=	£21	7s. 6d.

The Salvage Scheme received a severe setback during the second half of the year when the new refuse collecting vehicle came into service and the Salvage Trailer was discarded. Collections for the year were some 12 tons below those of 1957. (There is a further loss of 24 tons for the first half of 1959, compared with collections in the first half of 1958. A new Trailer came into use in June 1959, but it will be very difficult to recover the position now it has been lost).

Other Salvage receipts amounted to £3 15s. 0d., against £13 12s. 0d., for 1957.

21. RENT ACT, 1957.

Only ten enquiries were received, making twenty-eight in all, since the Act became operative. Two Certificates of Disrepair were applied for, and one Form J was issued and the necessary work carried out.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant;

J.S. FISHER.

Chief Public Health Inspector,
Meat and Foods Inspector,
and
Salvage Officer.

